

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: KRIANGSAK SPEECH

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF SPEECH DELIVERED BY PRIME MINISTER
KRIANGSAK CHOMANAN AT A DINNER IN HONOR OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE,
MAY 4, 1978:

BEGIN TEXT:
THE HONOURABLE THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND MRS. MONDALE.
EXCELLENCIES,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THAILAND, MAY I
EXTEND TO YOU AND MRS. MONDALE AS WELL AS THE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS
OF YOUR PARTY, A WARM AND HEARTFELT WELCOME TO THE KINGDOM OF
THAILAND.
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IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE AND PRIVILEGE FOR ME AND MY WIFE TO HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY OF HOSTING THIS DINNER IN YOUR HONOUR TONIGHT. WE
DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE HONOUR YOU HAVE DONE US IN PAYING US
A VISIT AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA, THE COUNTRY WITH WHICH THAILAND HAS HAD A LONG-
STANDING RECORD OF CLOSE, FRIENDLY AND FRUITFUL RELATIONS.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES BEGAN FORMALLY ON A MODEST SCALE, OWING TO THE GREAT DISTANCE WHICH SEPARATES US. HOWEVER, OVER THE SPAN OF OVER A CENTURY AND A HALF, THIS RELATIONSHIP HAS BLOSSOMED INTO MULTI-FACETED TIES OF CO-OPERATIVE ENDEAVOURS THAT COVER MANY FIELDS OF MUTUAL INTERESTS. WHAT HAS EVOLVED OUT OF THESE CO-OPERATIVE EFFORTS ARE NOT MERELY MATERIAL ACHIEVEMENTS; THEY ALSO HAVE A SPIRITUAL DIMENSION. FROM VARIOUS CONTACTS AND THROUGH A VARIETY OF CHANNELS, THE THAIS HAVE COME TO DEVELOP A SPECIAL AFFINITY FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THE UNITED STATES IS THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY, YET IN OUR HEARTS IT SEEMS LIKE OUR NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOUR.

AMONG THE FACTORS WHICH HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR LONG AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP IS PROBABLY THE FACT THAT WE BOTH SHARE THE SAME IDEALS OF FREEDOM AND LIBERTY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL. GIVEN THE AMERICANS TRADITIONAL INTEREST IN THE PRESERVATION AND ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE THAIS' BUDDHIST CULTURE AND WAY OF LIFE, A CONVERGENCE OF HEARTS AND MINDS OF OUR TWO PEOPLES IS NOT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. OUR COMMON CONCERN FOR FREEDOM AND WELL-BEING OF INDIVIDUALS ALSO EXTENDS TO THOSE FROM BEYOND OUR RESPECTIVE BOUNDARIES. THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM FOR SOME 100,000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES NOW IN THAILAND IS ONE OF THE MANY CASES IN POINT. IT IS GRATIFYING THAT OVER 20,000 REFUGEES HAVE ALREADY BEEN ACCEPTED FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES. IT IS ALSO HEARTENING THAT, RECENTLY, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ENDORSED A PROJECT WHICH WOULD ADMIT TO THE UNITED STATES EACH YEAR FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS ABOUT 25,000 REFUGEES

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FROM THIS PART OF THE WORLD, AND TODAY YOUR EXCELLENCY HAS GIVEN US ASSURANCE THAT AT LEAST 20,000 REFUGEES WILL BE TAKEN FROM THAILAND.

WE APPLAUD PRESIDENT CARTER IN TAKING THIS STANCE, A STANCE WHICH TRULY REFLECTS HIS CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HIGH STANDARD OF MORALITY. WE, ON OUR PART, ARE OF COURSE ALSO WORKING VERY HARD TO FIND SOME PRACTICAL AND GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS TO THIS BURDENSOME PROBLEM.

MR. VICE PRESIDENT, YOUR PRESENCE HERE SIGNIFIES ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE LONG COURSE OF CLOSE AND HAPPY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS. YOUR VISIT COMES AT AN IMPORTANT JUNCTURE. SOUTHEAST ASIA HAS ENTERED A NEW PHASE WHERE A RELATIVE CALM AND PEACE HAVE RETURNED AFTER DECADES OF ARMED CONFLICTS. BUT NO ONE DARES PREDICT WITH ANY CERTAINTY HOW LONG THIS APPARENT CALMNESS WILL LAST, OR WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON ALL OF US WHO LIVE IN THIS REGION TO DOUBLE OUR EFFORTS, EITHER ON OUR OWN OR IN CONCERT WITH OUR FRIENDS WHO SHARE THE SAME OBJECTIVE, TO ENSURE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE THAT THIS PEACE AND CALM WILL BECOME PERMANENT, THUS ENABLING US TO TURN TO THE MAJOR TASK OF IMPROVING THE WELL BEING OF OUR PEOPLES.

I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES ALSO ENTERTAINS THE SAME OBJECTIVE IN REGARD TO THIS REGION, WHERE IT HAS A POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE TO PLAY. WITH ENORMOUS RESOURCES AND POWER AT ITS DISPOSAL THE UNITED STATES CAN CONTRIBUTE A GREAT DEAL TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS AS WELL AS TO THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

MR. VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. MONDALE, AGAIN OUR HEARTIEST WELCOME TO YOU AND YOUR PARTY. I HOPE THAT YOUR STAY HERE WILL BE ENJOYABLE AND FRUITFUL. BEFORE CONCLUDING, I SHOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO BE KIND ENOUGH TO CONVEY OUR RESPECTFUL REGARDS AND BEST WISHES TO HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT CARTER AND OUR WARM GREETINGS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE UPON YOUR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES.

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EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MAY I NOW INVITE YOU TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO THE HEALTH OF THE HONOURABLE THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. AND MRS. MONDALE, AND TO THE EVERLASTING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES.
THANK YOU.
MCGINLEY

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